[2nd November 1935

(b) if answer to clause (a) be in the affirmative, what the amount is expected to be realized and at what rate per acre; and

(c) if answer to clause (a) be in the negative, how long after and why the Government entertained the idea of enhancing the water-rate?

A.—(a) *to* (c) The question of the effect of the Cauvery-Mettur Project on the old Cauvery channels in the Namakkal taluk, Salem district, was considered in 1928. The Engineers of the Government reported that with the completion of the Cauvery-Mettur Project these channels which were subject to fitful and uncertain supply (dependent on rainfall and the conditions in the river) would receive a steady and better supply. The rates of water-cess under the Cauvery channels in the Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts had been raised, and the Government saw no reason why the channels in the Salem district should be exempted. They accordingly published draft rules for the levy of water-cess in the Salem district, and these rules were confirmed in G.O. No. 736, Revenue, dated 12th April 1934. The rates of water-cess are specified in this Government Order (which has been placed at the disposal of the Press). The increase of revenue in respect of the Cauvery channels in the Salem district was expected to be about Rs. 93,500.

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the question of steady supply of water to the channels in Salem district was considered at the time when the project was first thought of?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"Are the Government really convinced that water-supply is more steady to these channels than what it was before the construction of the Mettur Dam?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—"That is the opinion of the Public Works officers."

Commerce

Proposals for restricting the use of foreign barks and extracts in tanning.

* 409 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the Hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have under consideration the question of laying some restraint on the foreign barks and extracts?

A.—No.

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"May I know if the Hon. Gentleman is aware that the Chief Conservator of Forests has pointed out to the Government in his latest administration report that a large quantity of tanning bark is being imported in the province and as a result of

2nd November 1935]

that, all the barks available in our own forests do not find a sale and that consequently the Government should take steps to restrict the import of foreign barks?"

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. Bracken:—"I have not seen this particular paragraph."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"Do the Government propose to restrict the importation of foreign bark?"

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. Bracken:—"It is a matter concerning the Government of India. They would want a very strong case to convince them of its necessity."

Local Self-Government

Programme of bifurcation of district boards for the years 1935 and 1936.

* 410 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state how many district boards are proposed to be bifurcated in the course of this year and the next and what their names are and the annual normal income and expenditure of each?

A.—The Government have not decided the number of district boards which should be bifurcated during the current year or in the next.

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have laid down any definite principle for the bifurcation of district boards?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"The Government have not yet decided the district boards to be bifurcated either this year or the next year. Various principles govern the bifurcation of the district boards; it is not possible to enunciate them now in a few words."

Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur:—"In view of the fact that there is much congestion of work in the district boards owing to the abolition of taluk boards, will the Government be pleased to take early steps to see that all the district boards are bifurcated?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"I am not in a position to give an undertaking that all the district boards will be bifurcated; the Government are considering the case of each district board and will attend to them in the order of urgency."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"May I know if the Government do not get a list prepared, of the district boards which should be bifurcated during the coming year?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"There is no such procedure."